

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT HABITAT PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL

Game Branch / HPC Project Number: 15-517

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Dobbs Butte Pipeline Project

Region and Game Management Unit: Region 5, GMU 37A

Local Habitat Partnership Committee (LHPC):
• Tucson

Was the project presented to the LHPC?
YES[X] NO[]

Has this project been submitted in previous years? YES[] NO[X]

If Yes, was it funded? YES[] NO[] → **Funded HPC Project #(s):**

Project Type: Cooperative Water Development Project with Rancher

Brief Project Summary: This project will add improvements to the Dobbs Butte Ranch near Three Points, AZ. The planned improvements include solar pumps, storage tanks, pipelines, and troughs. These improvements will make water available to both livestock and wildlife on the west and north portions of the ranch. 75% of the improvements will be funded by NRCS EQIP funds. The rancher will install and maintain the planned improvements. The plan is for the western portion of the pipeline to supply water to a proposed new AGFD water catchment.

Big Game Wildlife Species to Benefit (% benefit per species): mule deer (50%), javelina (30%), bighorn sheep (10%), mountain lion (10%)

Implementation Schedule (Month/Day/Year):

Project Start Date: January 1, 2016

Project End Date: January 1, 2018

Environmental Compliance:

NEPA Completed: Yes[] No[] N/A[X]

Projected Completion Date: State Trust Land

State Historic Preservation Office - Archaeological Clearance:
(Provide Attachment)

Yes[] No[X] N/A[]

Projected Completion Date: To be completed by John Patton

Arizona Game and Fish Department EA Checklist: N/A[X]

To be Completed by: _____

Projected Completion Date: _____

PROJECT FUNDING

Special Big Game License Tag Funds Requested: \$51,042.20

Cost Share or Matching Funds: NRCS EQUIP Funds \$153,126.57

Total Project Costs: \$204,168.77

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Applicant (please print):
Pat Whillock

Address:
16830 W Lambert Ln
Marana, AZ 85653

E-mail:
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Telephone: (520)307-2753

Date: 8/19/2015

AGFD Contact and Phone No. (If applicant is not AGFD personnel):

Allison Dutt, AGFD Wildlife Manager 38M/37A; (520)-240-1019

Project has been coordinated with:

John Patton, ASLD Range Con; Alisha Phipps, NRCS; Clyde Weekly, Mule Deer Foundation; Allison Dutt, AGFD Wildlife Manager 38M/37A

NEED STATEMENT – PROBLEM ANALYSIS:

The only permanent water on Dobb Butte Ranch is a well with an electric pump in the southeast corner. There are two large dirt tanks on the ranch, but they only hold water seasonally, usually from August through March. There is also an AGFD concrete wildlife water catchment (Catchment #724) that no longer holds water reliably, and is in need of redevelopment. Adding these planned improvements on the ranch, to develop permanent water sources and spread out the availability of water, will greatly benefit the livestock and wildlife in the area. By dispersing the water sources grazing intensity will also be lessened and overall range and plant health should improve.

The Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) Mule Deer Working Group found that rainfall and availability of water were the two biggest limiting factors for wildlife in the Southwest Desert Ecoregion. The number one recommendation of the Group to improve mule deer management in the Southwest Desert Ecoregion was to create sources of water in areas where water is limiting and where other potentially limiting factors are being addressed. Also, consistent with the Group's recommendation is the Department's Species Management Guidelines (SMG) which provides goals, objectives, strategies and procedures for a specific species. The SMG outlines four ways to improve and enhance deer habitat to accomplish the overall goal of increasing mule deer populations to levels that provide diverse recreational opportunities. Number one on the list is: protect and maintain current water sources, and where water is lacking and the distribution and abundance of deer can be influenced, develop new water sources.

There is not currently a resident population of bighorn sheep in the Roskrige Mountains. However, a pair of rams have been seen at Catchment #724 and a GPS collared ram was recorded traveling south from the Waterman Mountains through the Roskriges. An increase in reliable water sources in the Roskrige Mountains could possibly encourage the Waterman and Silverbell bighorn sheep populations to extend their range to the south. The area could also serve as a travel corridor to the Coyote Mountains Wilderness and Baboquivari Peaks Wilderness both in Unit 36C.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

- To increase mule deer, bighorn sheep, and javelina populations by extending water pipelines and storage facilities on the Dobb Butte Ranch.
- The west pass pipeline will be the main water source for proposed new AGFD Water Catchment
- Disperse water sources to lessen grazing intensity and improve overall range and plant health.
- To work cooperatively with ranchers to better manage both wildlife and livestock.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND STRATEGIES:

Middle Tank - New Well & Watering System

A new well is to be drilled at the corrals next to Middle Tank (SE¼, SW¼, Sec. 34, T15S, R9E). A solar pump will be installed on the new well along with a new 10,000 gallon storage tank and an 800 gallon trough. Any overflow will be designed to drain into Middle Tank.

West Pass Pipeline

From there a pipeline will run west along the dirt road to the pass north of Martina Mountain to end at another new 10,000 gallon storage tank and an 800 gallon trough (NW¼, NW¼, Sec. 5, T16S, R9E) to help disperse grazing towards the western side of the pasture. The planned pipeline is approximately 12,538 feet long. A booster pump will be installed in the storage tank at the corrals to pump up to the storage tank in the western pass. The elevation change is approximately 150 ft. This pipeline will be the primary source of water for a new AGFD wildlife water catchment which is planned in the west pass.

Reservation Tank - New Well & Watering System

A new well is to be drilled near the intersection of the three fencelines at the north end of the large east and west pastures (NW¼, NW¼, Sec. 28, T15S, R9E). A solar pump will be installed on the new well along with a new 5,000 gallon storage tank and an 800 gallon trough.

Reservation Tank Pipeline

From the storage tank at the well a pipeline will run west along the fenceline to Reservation Tank to end at a new 5,000 gallons storage tank and 800 gallon trough to provide permanent water to that location. The planned pipeline is approximately 2,439 feet long. Any overflow will be designed to drain into Reservation Tank.

North Pasture Pipeline

From the storage tank at the well a pipeline would also run east along the fenceline, approximately 4,877 feet, to the southeast corner of the 1 section pasture (Sec. 21). The pipeline would end at a new 5,000 gallon storage tank and an 800 gallon trough. A booster pump would need to be installed at the well to pump water up to this location, there is an elevation change of about 125 feet.

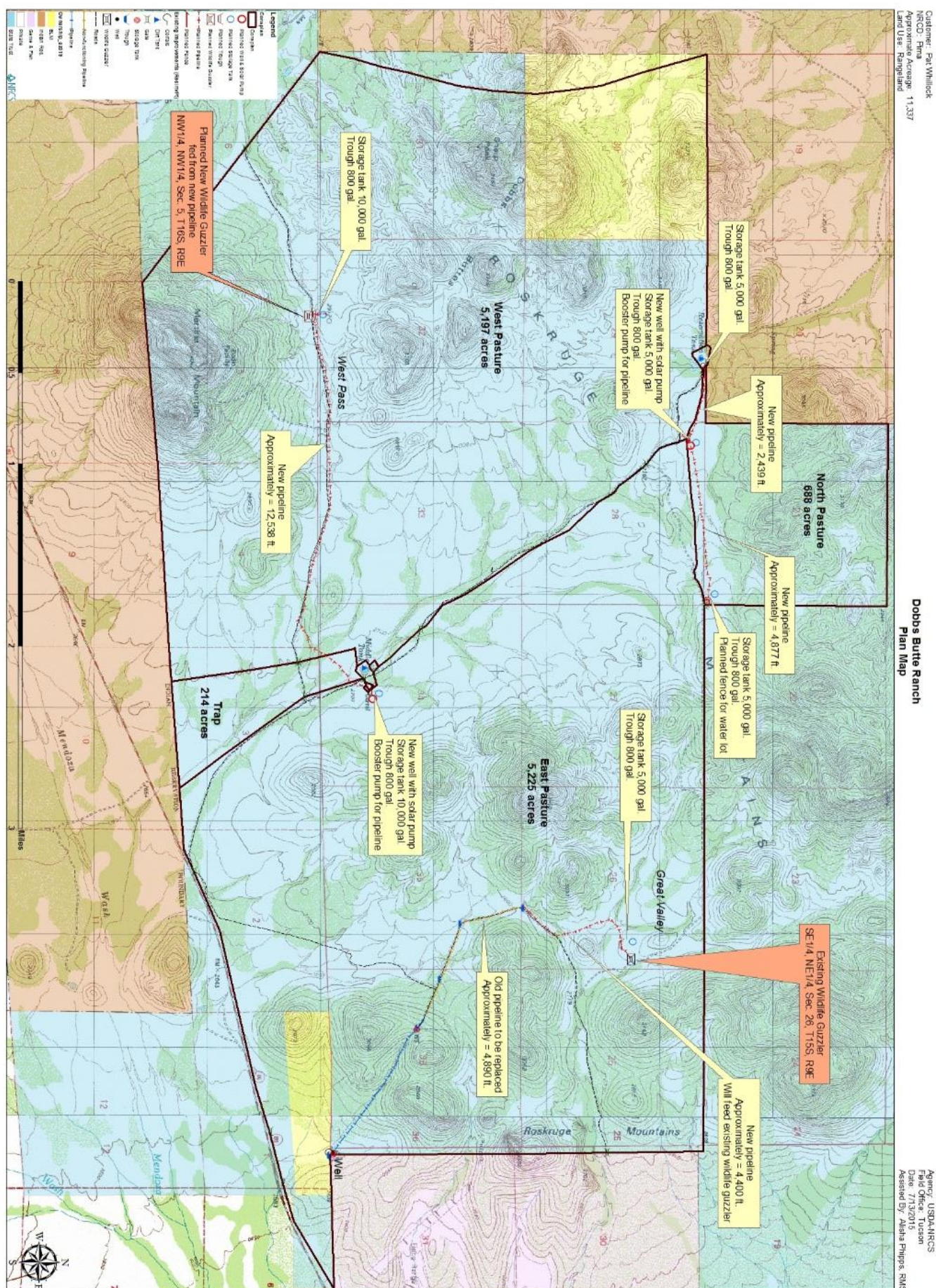
Replacing old pipeline

Replace the old existing pipeline on the east side of the ranch, crossing section 36 and 35, with new polyethylene pipe. The length of this segment is approximately 4,890 feet.

Great Valley new pipeline

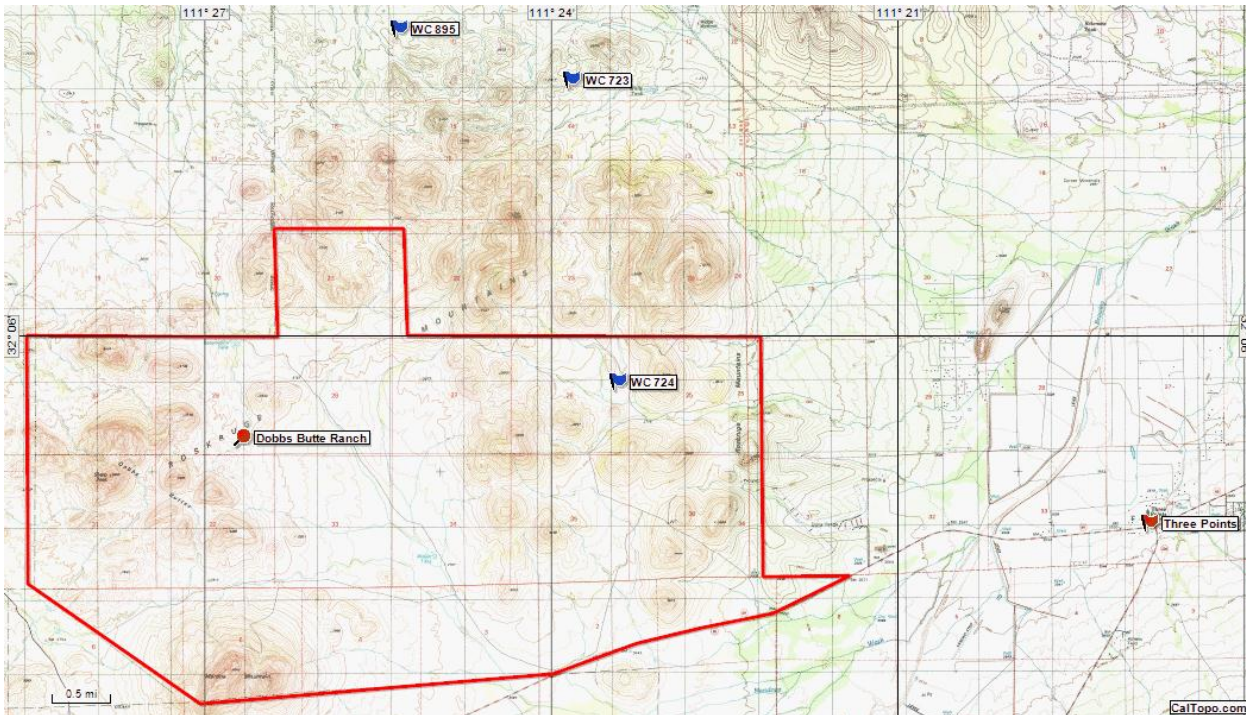
Continuing on from the existing pipeline, a new pipeline will be installed to extend further north into section 26. This planned pipeline would be approximately 4,944 feet. It would end at a new 5,000 gallon storage tank and 800 gallon trough.

(MAP ON NEXT PAGE)



PROJECT LOCATION

The Dobbs Butte Ranch is located 5 miles west of Three Points, Arizona. The entire ranch falls within Townships 15 and 16 South and Ranges 9 and 10 East. The ranch borders the 98 and Buckelew Ranches to the south, the Tohono O'odham Reservation to the west, the AGFD shooting range to the east and the Tortuga Ranch to the north. The ranch is approximately 11,337 acres consisting of leased land from the Arizona State Land Department (ASLD).



LAND OWNERSHIP AT THE PROJECT SITE(S):

- The project site is on State Trust Land, administered by the Arizona State Land Department.

IF PRIVATE PROPERTY, IS THERE A COOPERATIVE BIG GAME STEWARDSHIP or LANDOWNER AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LANDOWNER AND THE DEPARTMENT?

YES[] NO[] N/A[X]

HABITAT DESCRIPTION:

The primary biotic community in the Roskrige Mountains is Sonoran desert scrub. Common vegetation around the project area includes, palo verde (*Cercidium microphyllum*), saguaro (*Carnegiea gigantea*), ocotillo (*Fouquieria splendens*), and creosote (*Larrea tridentata*). Average rainfall is 10-12", and the elevation is approximately 2,700'.

(PICTURES ON NEXT PAGE)



ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:

Special Big Game License Tag Funds

Middle Tank- New Well & Watering System

Water Well	\$4,095.00
Solar Pump	\$3,142.42
Solar Pump Booster	\$1,949.07
10,000g Storage Tank	\$2,433.33
800g Trough	\$602.67

West Pass Pipeline

Pipeline- HDPE Pipe 12,538ft	\$6,672.59
10,000g Storage Tank	\$2,433.33
800g Trough	\$602.67

Reservation Tank - New Well & Watering System

Water Well	\$4,095.00
Solar Pump	\$3,142.42
Solar Pump Booster	\$1,337.42
5,000g Storage Tank	\$2,250.00
800g Trough	\$602.67

Reservation Tank Pipeline

2,439ft HDPE Pipe	\$1,298.08
5,000g Storage Tank	\$2,250.00
800g Trough	\$602.67

North Pasture Pipeline

4,877ft HDPE Pipe	\$2,594.53
5,000g Storage Tank	\$2,250.00
800g Trough	\$602.67

Replace Old Pipeline

4,890ft HDPE Pipe	\$2,602.67
5,000g Storage Tank	\$2,250.00

Great Valley Pipeline

4,944ft HDPE Pipe	\$2,630.32
800g Trough	\$602.67

Total	\$51,042.20
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Cost Share or Matching Funds (for volunteer labor rates please refer to the worksheet below)

NRCS EQIP FUNDS

Middle Tank- New Well & Watering System

Water Well	\$12,285.00
Solar Pump	\$9,427.26
Solar Pump Booster	\$5,847.22
10,000g Storage Tank	\$7,300.00
800g Trough	\$1,808.00

West Pass Pipeline

12,538ft HDPE Pipe	\$20,017.76
10,000g Storage Tank	\$7,300.00
800g Trough	\$1,808.00

Reservation Tank - New Well & Watering System

Water Well	\$12,285.00
Solar Pump	\$9,427.26
Solar Pump Booster	\$4,012.27
5,000g Storage Tank	\$6,750.00
800g Trough	\$1,808.00

Reservation Tank Pipeline

2,439ft HDPE Pipe	\$3,894.24
5,000g Storage Tank	\$6,750.00
800g Trough	\$1,808.00

North Pasture Pipeline

4,877ft HDPE Pipe	\$7,783.60
5,000g Storage Tank	\$6,750.00
800g Trough	\$1,808.00

Replace Old Pipeline

4,890ft HDPE Pipe	\$7,808.00
5,000g Storage Tank	\$6,750.00

Great Valley Pipeline

4,944ft HDPE Pipe	\$7,890.96
800g Trough	\$1,808.00

Total	\$153,126.57
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LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:

AGFD Region 5
Arizona State Land Department (Permits)
Pat Whillock (Installation and Maintenance)
NRCS (EQUIP Funding)

WOULD IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PROJECT ASSIST IN PROVIDING, MAINTAINING, OR FACILITATING RECREATIONAL ACCESS?

YES[] NO[] N/A[X]

PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:

Pat Whillock will monitor the pipeline, troughs, storage tanks, and solar pumps.

PROJECT MAINTENANCE:

The maintenance of this project will be the responsibility of Pat Whillock.

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:

A. Dutt, AGFD Region V GMU 38M/37A Wildlife Manager

WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (please use the worksheet below):

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT WATER DEVELOPMENT WORKSHEET

PROJECT TITLE: Dobbs Butte Ranch Pipeline Project

- 1) **Is the water development listed as a priority in the most recent "Wildlife Water Development Annual Implementation Schedule?"**
No
- 2) **Please list the Development Branch personnel and date coordinated with for this project.**
N/A
- 3) **What is the estimated annual inches of precipitation for the area? (mark one)**
☐2-4 ☐4-6 ☐6-8 ☐8-10 ☒10-12 ☐12-14 ☐14-16 ☐ >16
- 4) **Is there a perennial water source available to big game within four miles of this project?**

YES☒ (please complete #5 below) NO☐ (skip #5 below)
- 5) **For the accessible, perennial water source nearest this project:**
Name of water source: Dobb Butte Ranch Well (existing)
Type of water source (catchment, spring, dirt tank): Well (electric pump)
Ownership of water source: Pat Whillock
Distance in miles from project: within project area
- 6) **Is the target wildlife species a result of transplant efforts?** YES☐ NO☒
- 7) **Please list any special land management status for the project site (i.e. Wilderness, National Park, National Monument). If private land, list landowner.**
N/A
- 8) **Please provide the following information about access to the proposed site:**
Type of access (mark one): ☒2x4 vehicles ☐4x4 only ☐foot only**

**If foot access only: Distance in miles: _____ Approximate hiking time: _____

-- Does access to this site require crossing private or tribal lands? YES☐ NO☒

-- Please describe any restrictions to public access: None
- 9) **Please list below (or on a separate sheet) the material type and dimensions of each component proposed to be added, modified, or repaired.**
- 10) **Was a site visit completed?** Yes☒ No☐
If Yes, please list personnel that attended and date.
June 19, 2015: Allison Dutt, AGFD Wildlife Manager 38M/37A; John Patton, ASLD Range Con; Alisha Phipps, NRCS; Darrel Tersey, BLM; Terry Herndon and Clyde Weekly, Mule Deer Foundation; Pat Whillock, Dobbs Butte Ranch